

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English *with* CBC



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta

Alberta

Calgary

May 1, 2017

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 New arena could replace Calgary's Saddledome (0:12)

Setting the Scene



In Calgary, a new arena could be built just north of the Saddledome (Google Maps) (CBC file photos)

Two years ago, the Calgary Flames organization proposed a new building for the city. This building, CalgaryNEXT, would include an arena, stadium, and fieldhouse. It could be used for sports, entertainment and other events. The city is looking at this option, and others, to develop sports facilities in the city. One idea is to replace the Saddledome, where sports and entertainment events are held now. The city could build a new arena in an area just north of the Saddledome, which is now used for parking. The Calgary City Council has not yet chosen which option to take.

Pre-listening Questions

Have you ever been to the Saddledome? What did you do/see there?

Do you like watching live sports? Which sports do you like to watch?

Do you think the city should build a new sports facility? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
_____	discussions (n.)	a) possible, realistic
_____	replace (v.)	b) choice, alternative
_____	site (n.)	c) drawing, sketch
_____	workable (adj.)	d) plan, idea
_____	redevelopment (n.)	e) take over, substitute
_____	design (n.)	f) upgrade, improvement
_____	rejected (v.)	g) refused, said no to
_____	suggest (v.)	h) talks, meetings
_____	proposal (n.)	i) recommend, encourage
_____	option (n.)	j) place, location

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

city council – a body of people elected to manage a city

arena – an area for sports or entertainment, surrounded by seats for people to watch

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_3emsjm

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Multiple Choice

Read the following sentences. Then listen to the audio and choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Calgary City Council will continue talks about a new arena in _____.	a) Victor Place b) Victoria Park
2. A _____ written for the council says the site could be part of a larger redevelopment.	a) report b) review
3. The site is just _____ of the Saddledome, and is located on Stampede _____.	a) north / property b) south / parking grounds
4. There are no details about the possible design, or how much _____ is needed.	a) public money b) political movement
5. Mayor Nenshi says they want to see where the talks go between the _____ and the _____.	a) Stampede / Saddledome b) Flames / Stampede
6. Council will not suggest that the Flames' CalgaryNext proposal in the _____ is dead.	a) West Village b) West River
7. The Flames CEO says that this new possibility _____.	a) looks good b) looks bad

Food for Thought

Is there anything you would change about the Saddledome?

What features would you like to see in a new Calgary sports building?

What are some pros and cons of building a new facility?

News story #2 New American fees on Canadian lumber (1:10)

Setting the Scene



(The Canadian Press) (CBC file photo)

Donald Trump, the President of the United States, has been making changes to trade deals. He says that he wants the American economy to be better at supporting itself and its people. He has also said that the US will change trade agreements with other countries if he thinks the US isn't benefitting from those agreements. Canada is a large trade partner for the United States, and many Canadians worry this will impact our economy. Trump recently spoke against the Canadian dairy industry and its prices. Now, he is doing the same with Canadian lumber.

Pre-listening Questions

What kind of items or goods are made with lumber?

The USA is Canada's biggest trade partner. What other countries does Canada trade with?

Does your home country do a lot of foreign trade? What kind of items are bought and sold?

Vocabulary

Find the definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. One purpose of trade laws is to protect the **interests** of Canadian businesses and people.
 - a. the best or most helpful things
 - b. the richest or more expensive things
2. The woman was caught speeding. When police saw that she had been texting, they **slapped** her with the extra charge of distracted driving.
 - a. helped something
 - b. added something
3. If the city builds a new arena in this neighbourhood, we will see an **increase** in traffic.
 - a. make more complicated or difficult
 - b. make larger or bigger
4. They bought an older house, but decided to **renovate** the kitchen to make it modern.
 - a. make changes to improve a building or house
 - b. make changes to improve an idea or plan
5. If a business only hires people of one gender or race, the public may **accuse** them of unfair hiring.
 - a. say someone is innocent of something
 - b. say someone is responsible for something
6. He was **rebuked** by the boss after being late for work several times last month.
 - a. lied to someone
 - b. spoke to someone in an angry way
7. The man was given a parking ticket, but **appealed** the ticket to the city. He said the parking signs were not clear, so he shouldn't have to pay any money.
 - a. requested that a court change its decision
 - b. requested that the police arrest someone

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

softwood lumber – wood from a conifer tree, such as pine, spruce or fir

duties– payments on the import/export of goods

cleared of wrongdoing - officially labeled innocent, after being suspected of a crime or bad act

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_3emt43

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Listening Activity

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. ____ Ottawa will fight for the interests of the Canadian softwood lumber industry.
2. ____ This statement is according to Canada's National Resources.
3. ____ Jim Carr made the promise after the US put new duties on all Canadian products.
4. ____ The duties are up to 24 percent.
5. ____ Carr says the duties will negatively impact both Canadians and Americans.
6. ____ He says that it will be more expensive to build or renovate a home in Canada.
7. ____ Trump's administration says Canada sells unfairly overpriced lumber to the US.
8. ____ The US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross talked about Canada.
9. ____ Ross said that Canada is always a good neighbour, but still has to play by the rules.
10. ____ Producers in Alberta have appealed similar comments before.
11. ____ Those producers say they have sometimes been punished in the past.

Food for thought

What other items does Canada sell to the United States?

When you buy items, do you think about the country they came from?

Do you think this new duty on Canadian lumber will be kept? Or do you think it will change?

News story #3 Two candidates remain in French election (2:19)

Setting the Scene



The four candidates in France's election were, from left, François Fillon, Emmanuel Macron, Jean-Luc Mélenchon, and Marine Le Pen. Now, only Macron and Le Pen go on to the second round of voting. (CBC News) (CBC file photo)

In France, elections are held in two rounds. In the first round, people can vote for any candidate that they like. The votes are counted and the top two candidates stay in the race. The second round of voting happens a few weeks later. Then, the people of France choose between those two candidates to vote for a leader. In the current election for President of France, the two remaining candidates are very different from each other.

Pre-listening Questions

What do you know about France? What are some important topics and issues in the country today?

What do you think of the two-round voting system?

How are leaders chosen in your home country?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

outsiders (n.)	people who are not expected to win a competition
independent (adj.)	not associated with a larger group or company
govern (v.)	officially lead a city, province, country, etc.
pledging (v.)	promising to give or do something
integration (n.)	the process of making something part of something larger
relief (n.)	a relaxed feeling when something bad stops or doesn't happen at all
supporters (n.)	people who like an idea, politician, party, etc.
option (n.)	the chance to choose between two or more things

1. For newcomers to Canada, _____ into the community can be difficult. This is especially true if they don't speak much English or French. Many public institutes, such as libraries, are _____ to offer language classes and resources for these people.
2. These classes are usually free, which is a _____ for many newcomers on tight budgets. It means they have the _____ to gain skills, even if they don't have much money.
3. In Canada, there are several main political parties, such as the Liberals, Conservatives, NDP, etc. People who want to _____ in Canada, but have no party, can enter an election as _____ candidates.
4. However, it can be difficult for these people to find _____ to vote for them. They are often considered _____ because people don't know their beliefs and values.

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

showdown – an important game or competition

run-off election – an election with two rounds

centrist – a person whose political beliefs are not left or right of centre

far right – a term that describes political views that are very conservative

referendum – an event where people in a party vote on a law

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Listening Activity

Organizing

Read the list of information below. As you listen to the audio, put the piece of information under the correct name.

Answers are in the appendix.

Emmanuel Macron	Marine Le Pen

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • is in the National Front party | • wants to get rid of the Euro | • won 21% of the vote |
| • is 39 years old | • won 23% of the vote | • wants a referendum |
| • is independent | • is far-right in politics | • wants more European integration |
| | • will govern from the middle | |

Food for thought

What qualities do you look for when you vote for a leader?

Why is the European Union such an important topic in the French election?

If you were in France which candidate would you vote for? Why?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MAY WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. I'm Ron Nicolson, and this is Learning English with the CBC for May 1 st , with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	Calgary City Council has voted to continue the discussions on a new arena in Victoria Park, which could replace the Saddledome. A report done for Council says the site, just north of the Saddledome on Stampede property, would be workable for a new arena, and could be part of a larger redevelopment of the area. But there are no details on the possible design or how much public money is needed. Mayor Naheed Nenshi says Council wants to see where the talks go with the Flames and the Stampede. However, Council also rejected any move to suggest the Flames' CalgaryNext proposal in the West Village is dead. Flames CEO Ken King says there isn't any need to talk about CalgaryNext now, because this new option looks good.	0:12
Story 2	Canada's Natural Resources says Ottawa will fight for the interests of the Canadian softwood lumber industry. Jim Carr made the promise after the United States slapped duties of up to 24 per cent on Canadian softwood lumber products. Carr calls the duties unfair and says they will negatively affect people on both sides of the border. He also says they will increase costs for American families who want to build or renovate their homes. The Trump administration accuses Canada of selling unfairly low-priced lumber in the United States. US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross mildly rebuked Canada, and said Canada is generally a good neighbour, but added, even good neighbours have to play by the rules. Producers in Alberta say they've appealed these criticisms about lumber prices in the past, and have been cleared of wrongdoing each time.	1:10
Story 3	France is preparing for a presidential showdown between two political outsiders. A run-off election will be held on Sunday, May 7 th , after the first round of voting last week. Independent centrist Emmanuel Macron finished first, with 23 per cent of the vote, ahead of far right leader Marine Le Pen, who took 21 per cent. If elected, Macron, who's 39, would become the youngest president France has ever had. He's promising to govern, not from the left or from the right, but from the middle. He's also pledging greater European integration, much to the relief of leaders of the European Union. But supporters of Marine Le Pen see her far-right National Front as the only option for a country eager for change. She wants the country to get rid of the Euro as its currency, and hold a referendum on EU membership.	2:19

Answer keys

News story 1

New arena could replace Calgary's Saddledome (0:12)

Vocabulary

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h	discussions (n.)	a) possible, realistic
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j	site (n.)	c) drawing, sketch
a	workable (adj.)	d) plan, idea
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c	design (n.)	f) upgrade, improvement
g	rejected (v.)	g) refused, said no to
i	suggest (v.)	h) talks, meetings
d	proposal (n.)	i) recommend, encourage
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Listening

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News story 2

New American fees on Canadian lumber (1:10)

Vocabulary

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News story 3 Two candidates remain in French election (2:19)

Vocabulary

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2. These classes are usually free, which is a relief for many newcomers on tight budgets. It means they have the option to gain skills, even if they don't have much money.
3. In Canada, there are several main political parties, such as the Liberals, Conservatives, NDP, etc. People who want to govern in Canada, but have no party, can enter an election as independent candidates.
4. However, it can be difficult for these people to find supporters to vote for them. They are often considered outsiders because people don't know their beliefs and values.

Listening

Emmanuel Macron	Marine Le Pen
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• is 39 years old• is independent• won 23% of the vote• will govern from the middle• wants more European integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• is in the National Front party• wants to get rid of the Euro• is far-right in politics• won 21% of the vote• wants a referendum